

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-11 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SSM-03 /079 W

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R 011414Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 406

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS XF

SUBJECT: ISRAEL PRESS REPORTS ARAFAT PROPOSAL TO SENATOR STEVENSON

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: JERUSALEM POST MARCH 1 (BLITZER, FROM WASHINGTON) REPORTS THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS "ARE STUDYING" ARAFAT PROPOSAL MADE TO SENATOR STEVENSON IN BEIRUT RECENTLY "THAT ISRAEL HAND OVER THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP TO THE UNITED NATIONS AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE". GENERAL FEELING IN WASHINGTON ACCORDING TO BLITZER IS THAT THE PROPOSAL IS BASICALLY A NON-STARTER, "ALTHOUGH SOME AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST".

2. ARTICLE CITES SENATOR STEVENSON AS SAYING IN WASHINGTON POST INTERVIEW THAT ISRAELI OFFICIALS HAD SHOWN LITTLE INTEREST IN THE PLAN, ADDING THAT THEY WERE SKEPTICAL IN PARTICULAR OF STEVENSON'S IMPRESSION THAT THE PLO WOULD ACCEPT ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST FOLLOWING AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. DAVAR
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WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (BARNEA) REPORTS ESSENTIALLY

SAME STORY. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGINCONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE
OF A SCHEME SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED BY ARAFAT TO SENATOR
STEVENSON RECEIVING ENCOURAGEMENT HERE. WITHDRAWAL
ON THE WEST BANK WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS
FOR RABIN GOVERNMENT IF TERRITORY WERE RETURNED TO
JORDAN; TURNING I OVER TO THE UN--AT THE SUGGESTION
OF THE PLO--WOULD ADD TO THESE PROBLEMS. THE PROMISE
OF PLO RECOGNITIONIN RETURN CARRIES LITTLE WEIGHT
HERE, AND WOULD HARDLY BE BARGAINED AGAINST TERRITORIAL
CONCESSIONS. ISRAEL IS IMPLY NOT INCLINED TO GO OUT
OF ITS WAY TO PROMPT PLO RECOGNITION, WHICH IT IS FELT
WOULD ONLY LEAD TO INCREASED PRESSURE TO BRING THE
PLO INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.
TOON

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NNN

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